

Utah ELP Standards

Utah English Language Proficiency Standards

were created in response to the federal No Child Left Behind, Title III requirements. Subsequently, the Utah State Board of Education authorized the English Language Proficiency Standards to undergo public hearings.

The Utah ELP Standards were designed to help teachers understand what English language learners (ELLs) should know and be able to do with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum. The standards were created for teachers to help each other plan and support the teaching of reading, writing, and comprehension of the English language arts.



resources

Additional resources available to parents:

- School personnel such as principals, administrators, counselors, and teachers can help you support the education of your child.
- For additional information, phone the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at (801) 261-3100 or visit www.utahpta.org.
- Attend activities at public libraries or community recreational centers.
- Participate in sports and clubs.
- A copy of the English Language Proficiency Standards can be read and downloaded at <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/ALS/standards.html>.

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a standards-based curriculum

...defines the teaching topics teachers use and provides learning goals for students and resources to be used for each class. Teachers use standards-based curricula to make decisions about what to teach at each grade level.

The Utah English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards:

- Explain what English language learners (ELLs) should know, need to learn, and be able to do in the language acquisition program, and focus on the ELL student's ability to use English to meet the Utah Language Arts Standards and Objectives.
- Are intended to provide help for ELL students to understand English in math and science.
- Were developed by English language arts teachers, English acquisition teachers, and other educators from the State of Utah.

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How the Utah ELP Standards can be used:

- All teachers can use the ELP Standards to teach English language learners.
- Administrators can use the Utah ELP Standards to support school personnel to improve the education of English language learners.
- Schools and districts can use the Utah ELP Standards in their curriculum and assessment development efforts, and for the professional development of teachers.
- Colleges and universities can use the Utah ELP Standards to prepare teachers to work with ELL students.

parents

In order to help a child achieve these standards, parents can:

- Speak and read to their child in their native language.
- Talk with their child and help him or her answer questions—for example, “who,” “what,” “how,”

“why,” “when,” etc.—in their native language. Experts tell us that students who learn to read in their first language:

- Do better in school.
- Become competent readers in the second language.
- Read more in the first language and learn more English.
- Encourage the child to do well in school.
- Visit the school.
- Ask teachers about the student's progress.
- Ask the child about learning English in school.

students

The Utah ELP Standards will help a child on standardized tests.

- ELL students who can meet the Utah ELP Standards will be able to do better in school and meet school, district, and state requirements.
- By improving their English language skills—and, in particular, by meeting the standards for academic language development—students will be better able to acquire the content knowledge that standardized assessments measure.

educators

Teachers can use the ELP standards to:

- Understand the common expectations of what ELL students should know and be able to do as a result of their classes.
- Help each other plan and support the teaching of reading, writing, and comprehension of the English language arts and improve the academic achievement of English language learners.

School administrators can use the ELP standards to:

- Establish research-based approaches and promote education for ELL students based on promising practices that support teachers in schools.
- Provide effective education for ELL students to achieve native-like levels of proficiency.
- Provide effective education and full access to good-quality education for ELLs.

How the ELP standards are organized

The Utah ELP Standards describe what students should know and should be able to do to use English to meet the Utah Language Arts Standards and Objectives.

The Utah ELP Standards language proficiency categories are Pre-emergent, Emergent, Intermediate, Advanced, and Fluent.

The standards are presented in grade spans or levels of K–2, 3–6, 7–8, and 9–12. The grade spans are similar to those used in other national and content area standards, such as language arts.

Objective

Each standard in the document lists learning objectives which tell the teacher what students need to learn.

Sample English Language Proficiency Standards

To help teachers in particular, each standard also includes what the English language learner should know and be able to do with the language arts objective.

For example:

- ▶ **Pre-emergent** students will listen attentively and may respond in native language or use eye contact when listening.
- ▶ **Emergent** students will follow one or two-step directions, and ask simple questions.
- ▶ **Intermediate** students will listen and respond using sentences and questions with developmental errors, such as errors in subject-verb agreement, plural/singular, or word order.
- ▶ **Advanced** students will listen and demonstrate understanding of simple directions.
- ▶ **Fluent** students will meet the Utah Language Arts Standard with occasional support from a classroom teacher.

Lesson Plan Samples

The lesson plan samples are designed by experts of the field of English language arts and language acquisition for use in real-life classroom situations.